

militant group including United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) provided they shun violence.

(b) The Government has strengthened intelligence and security set up in the State including redeployment and induction of additional Central Para Military Forces. The counter insurgency operations have been intensified and the security forces have been successful in neutralizing a number of cadres of ULFA and other militant groups.

Ban on employment of foreigners

2316. SHRI V. HANUMANTHARAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to avoid country-specific ban on employment of foreigners;

(b) whether it is also a fact that smaller Indian firms face difficulties in getting permission to employ foreign crew for ships and vessels and technical personnel;

(c) what steps Government would take to ensure security, and at the same time create transparency and efficiency; and

(d) the steps proposed to avoid delays and confusion in such matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Employment of foreigners including crew members in India is governed by existing visa regime.

(b) Irrespective of the size of the Indian business firms, the existing visa regime permits highly skilled/professionals to come to India to work. No visa/permission is granted for routine jobs or jobs for which large number of Indians are available.

(c) and (d) Missions are authorized to grant visa on merit at their end subject to eligibility criteria as laid down for grant of visa and no objection from security stand point.